

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-10 and 13-18 were pending in this patent application. With this Amendment, claims 1-4, 13, and 14 have been amended; claims 19-25 have been newly added; and claims 6-10 and 15-18 have been canceled. As will be evident below, applicants have amended the entire claim set in a way such that it incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 6, 7, and 16.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite an iridium alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Rh, W, and Zr in the wt% ranges as claimed. In this way, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 6. Analogously, claim 3 has been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 7, specifically being directed to an iridium alloy consisting essentially of iridium, Rh, W, Zr, and Pt. Claim 4 has been amended in a way which contains the allowable subject matter of amended claim 1 but also specifies one or more of the additional constituents as set forth in claim 4. Analogously, claim 22 has been added to recite the subject matter of claim 4 but also specifying that platinum is part of the iridium alloy, analogous to claim 3.

The claim amendments and newly-added claims are supported in the application. Support for claims 4 and 22 is found in the application at, for example, page 4, lines 1-6. Claim 19-21 and 24 have been added to specify a tungsten range of 0.2 to 2.0 wt%. Support for this range can be found at page 7, Table 1. Claim 23 is analogous to claim 2, support for which can be found in the application at page 3, line 21. Finally, claim 25 is analogous to claim 5, and support for this claim can be found at page 4, lines 8-10 of the application. In view of this information, all of the amended and newly added claims are fully supported by the application, so no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Canceled claims 11 and 12 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,885,136. Because these claims have been canceled, this rejection has been rendered moot.

In addition, claims 1-5, 8-15, 17, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious based on three alternative references. Because each of the independent claims in this

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JMYT-340US

application has been amended or drafted in a way which recites subject matter which has been deemed allowable, this rejection has been rendered moot as well.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher R. Lewis, Reg. No. 36,201
Attorney for Applicants

CRL/lrb

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482-0980
(610) 407-0700

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